

HERITAGE BULLETIN BOARD XI APRIL 23, 2002

An updated National Heritage Area contact list is attached. Note that the addresses for the Delaware and Lehigh and the Schuylkill Heritage Corridors have changed!



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Thursday, April 18, 2002 was a busy day. The House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands held a markup on H.R. 2388 (Hefley CO) a bill to set standards and criteria for designating national heritage areas. The bill was approved by a voice vote and was sent with a number of amendments to the full committee for action.

At 3:00 p.m. the same day, the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands held a hearing on 6 heritage area bills: S. 1526 Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, S.1809 and H.R. Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area Study, S. 2033 John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Area, S.1638 French Colonial Heritage Area Study, S. 1939 Great Basin National Heritage Area, S. 1441 and H.R. Oil Region National Heritage Area. Senators Harry Reid (NV), Max Cleland (GA), Rick Santorum (PA) and Lincoln Chafee (RI) testified in support of the heritage areas in their states. Brenda Barrett presented the administration testimony: supporting the study bills; requesting deferral on the heritage area designation bills; and proposing reduced development funding for the Blackstone Heritage Corridor from the bill's proposed authorization of 10 million dollars over 4 years, to 5 million dollars over 5 years. A panel of community members also presented testimony on the Oil Region, Great Basin, Arabia Mountain and the Missouri Colonial bill. The committee Chairman Senator Akaka (HI) and the ranking member Senator Thomas (WY) questioned Barrett closely about National Park Service criteria and policy regarding the study and designation of new national heritage areas.

Just in time for the Bulletin Board's deadline: As if we needed any more proof that the heritage area movement is spreading west, Senator Bennett (UT) introduced the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area on April 22. This six county initiative is also known as Heritage Highway 89. Proponents have been working closely with the Utah SHPO office.

HERITAGE PARTNERS

The heritage area movement gained some new partners in a recent meeting in Santa Fe of international experts on cultural landscape conservation. The gathering was sponsored by ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and the Conservation Study Institute (National Park Service) in cooperation with ICOMOS (the International Committee on Monument and Sites). The focus was on identifying emerging issues and training needs in the field. Brenda Barrett and Dixie Swenson (Schuylkill River Corridor) represented heritage areas and the need for developing capacity and content in the field.

More help from the National Register of Historic Places, their latest online travel itinerary features Hardin County, Iowa, the "Heart of the Heartland." The itinerary features 26 sites in the county and was prepared in partnership with the National Park Service, the SHPO, local historical groups and, of course, Silos and Smokestacks.

UP COMING EVENTS

The Alliance's spring board meeting will be held April 25-28 along the Erie Canal in New York State.

The Alliance's fall board meeting will be held October 3-5 in Waterloo Iowa.
The National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting will feature a track on heritage area practice with both educational sessions and field trips. A special three-hour session entitled "Heritage Areas 101" will reach out to groups who think that a heritage area strategy might assist their preservation project. Hold the dates: October 8-11 in Cleveland.

A number of state partners are also planning heritage area sessions at their annual historic preservation meetings: on May 1-3 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation & Heritage will have a track on Pennsylvania's Heritage Areas & Landmarks, the Maryland Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, May3-5 will feature a heritage breakfast and a session on national heritage areas, and Oklahoma's 14th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference May 16-18 plans a heritage tourism track that focuses on heritage areas.

ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Planning is underway for the first International Heritage Development conference to be held in Pittsburgh June 7-11 2003. Plans include tours, "Everything Pittsburgh" events and educational sessions. The Alliance is seeking sponsors for the conference. Contact: Augie Carlino at 412-464-4020 or acarlino@riversofsteel.com.